

could not possibly have a public option—except for the fact we already have it in half our States, including our own; but we are not going to talk about that right now, we are just going to say we could never have it—that is the quality of the debate, when we have this huge win-win in front of us.

I hope everybody has a chance to sort of think about this over the break when we are gone and that we can come back with a new spirit of bipartisanship to really address this problem, seize that win-win, change the cost curve down, and solve this problem for the American people.

I will make one last point.

We have misled the public a little bit in our discussion, and we have done so because of the Congressional Budget Office and its professional capabilities. The Congressional Budget Office is very good at predicting what costs are going to be. So everybody has heard that our bill might be \$600 billion, that the Finance bill might be \$900 billion. They see the costs and they say: Well, how could you possibly be talking about savings when all we hear about are costs? All CBO can say about savings is that—and this is a quote—large reductions in health care costs are possible—large reductions. But they cannot quantify it. They cannot give us a number. And they have told us why they cannot give us that number.

They cannot give us that number because we can give the Obama administration, here in Congress, the tools to solve this problem. We already passed the electronic health records legislation. If, God willing, we pass the chairman's legislation from the HELP Committee, they will have the tools to improve the quality and turn the curve. They will have the tools to improve prevention and turn the curve. They will have the tools to reduce the unnecessary, wasteful administrative fighting between doctors and hospitals and insurance companies, that try not to pay them. That whole fight can disappear or at least shrink a lot, and that will help turn the curve.

But CBO cannot predict how effectively the Obama administration will do that. Like any CEO, the President of the United States and his staff are going to have to manage this problem, and that is where the savings will come. So people should not be misled that there are not real savings possible. Not only are they possible, they are mandatory. We have to turn this curve, and we have to do it dramatically. We can do it because we could drop our GDP expenditure of this by 50 percent and still have health care as good, if not better, than all of our competitor nations: France, New Zealand, Canada, England, Holland—all these countries—Japan. We can do it.

The promise is out there. We should not let the CBO scoring fool the public. That is my last point.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I will relieve the distinguished Presiding Officer so he can speak as the Senator from Colorado.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I will do the same. And, again, my thanks to SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island. He has just been a stellar advocate of the kind of change we need.

I know the Presiding Officer, as well, as a new Member of this body, has spent an inordinate amount of time on these questions, as well, in his own State and has listened to people in Colorado talk about this issue and what we can do together to get it right. I welcome his participation immensely as well.

I wish all of my colleagues a very healthy and safe break in the month of August, as I do for all Americans. But I hope my colleagues will keep in mind, I did not recite these numbers to put anyone on the spot. But sometimes we need to talk about numbers that are real to people, and these are real numbers that will potentially affect many of our fellow citizens. So we need to come back here with a renewed commitment to get this done.

We have the capability. We have good people here who care, I know, about these issues. And none of these decisions we can make are going to necessarily predict with absolute certainty that everything is going to work as well as we hope they would. But you have to begin. And we have to take a chance and work forward and hope these ideas we put on the table work. And to the extent they do not, you modify and change it, as will certainly be the case in the years ahead. But inaction, just saying no, is unacceptable. The answer “no” to health care ought to be rejected by every citizen in this country. This is a difficult problem, but being too difficult is an excuse that history will never forgive us for. It will never tolerate that excuse: This was too hard to do. When you think about previous generations and hard choices and difficult decisions, we wouldn't be here today if those generations had quit because it was too hard. We are here today because they made hard choices, they made the difficult decisions, and we have no less of a responsibility as a generation to do it on this issue. This is hard and it is difficult, but that will never be an acceptable answer to future generations if we bankrupt our country because we couldn't figure out how to solve this problem.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

COMMENDING RICHARD BAKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a man who has been serving the U.S. Senate for almost 35 years. Now that is how I and many other Senators may begin remarks about a colleague who is retiring. My remarks today are indeed about a colleague but not about a fellow Senator. These remarks are about Senate Historian Richard Baker, an important member of the Senate community who has made the Senate a better institution during his tenure.

Remarkably, until 1975 the U.S. Senate did not have a Historical Office charged with preserving the institutional memory of this great body. Dick Baker is the original and only Director and the Chief Historian for the past 34 years. Under his leadership, the Historical Office of the Senate has worked to recover, catalogue and preserve the history of the Senate.

Building this office from the ground up required Dick Baker and his team to collect and maintain records on current and former Senators, record oral histories, document important precedents, statistics and Senate activities. And as a photographer I must point out that this work included the cataloging and preservation of a huge trove of Senate-related photographs.

From the beginning, Dick Baker knew his responsibility at the Historical Office was not only to preserve the history of the Senate but to make it more accessible. That included providing access to records for members, staff, media and scholarly researchers. He exposed more of the Senate and its rich history to the general public through exhibits in the office buildings, presenting materials via the Web and working with C-SPAN to incorporate Senate history into its programming. And as an author, Dick Baker disseminated information with his publications on Senate history, including a biography of the former Senator from New Mexico, Clinton P. Anderson.

His greatest impact on me, however, and I believe the Senate as a whole, has been his placing of our work here in proper context. Most Senators and I look forward to the historical “minutes” that he presents at the opening of many of our caucus lunches. He has also been accessible to me and other Senators in providing presentations of the Senate history at many different venues. My staff and I thoroughly enjoyed a presentation he provided to us on the history of the Vermont Senate delegation. His alacrity and care for describing Senate history has reminded all of us about the significance of our work here.

As much as visitors feel the weight of history when they enter this building, it is no less important for those of us who represent them to be well aware of the 200-year history of the Senate. It is important to remember that although great men and women preceded us, and even greater ones will undoubtedly follow, our words and actions will continue to echo through these halls long after we are gone. Dick has reminded us of that regularly, and for that we thank him and wish him well.

COMMENDING RON EDMONDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is fitting that we in the Senate take note of the retirement of Ron Edmonds of the Associated Press, a veteran news photographer who has long and superbly documented public life in the Nation's Capital, including here on Capitol Hill.

If by chance we have not seen Ron himself over the years on the White House driveway or in the Senate's hearing rooms and hallways, we all surely recognize his work. His images, in the parlance of photographers, have bracketed the history of our era, from marches on Washington, to the attack on President Reagan's life—a photograph for which Ron Edmonds was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for spot news photography.

By now he has covered the White House for 28 years and captured the news in images of so many Presidents. He entered the world of photography in the day of celluloid film and concluded his career after having helped usher in the age of digital news photography.

I am grateful to have known Ron during his long career. I wish him and his family our congratulations and our best wishes.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Ron Edmonds' farewell message to his AP associates.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RETIREMENT MESSAGE OF RON EDMONDS

July 2009

After twenty-eight years of covering the White House for the Associated Press, I have decided to retire and spend some time with my family. I know you usually hear this excuse from politicians who have just been caught with their hands in the cookie jar or with a high-priced companion; but, in this instance, spending time with my family is my true reason, ok maybe a little fishing as well.

I have had one of the most fantastic jobs in the world. It has allowed me to work with some of the greatest journalists in the world and to make images of some of the biggest events in the last thirty years. I hope that in some small way, I have helped the Associated Press maintain its prominence as the number-one news organization.

I will never forget the experiences that I have been allowed to take part in: such as, walking through the Forbidden City in China or walking around Red Square with Ronald Reagan; ducking behind an inadequate rock in the Iranian desert as Iraqi artillery shells exploded around us; or, more pleasantly, drinking lemonade with King Hussein and Queen Noor at their summer home in Aqaba, Jordan; and boating down the Nile and strolling through the Valley of the Kings in Egypt with then-Vice President Bush.

I have spent many sleepless nights mulling over this decision. It is difficult to leave my many friends here and around the world at the Associated Press. But I have great hopes for a continued bright future for the AP. I leave with no trepidation but rather with a heart full of confidence that our younger generation of talented AP photographers, such as Charles Dharapak among others, will fill the void with a better and stronger report than ever before.

I have been lucky enough to win a couple of small awards for my work. But perhaps one of the most rewarding still was when my daughter Ashley came home from elementary school one day and announced that she was so proud, because that day she was able to raise her hand and tell the teacher that the picture on the front of her Weekly Reader was taken by her dad.

I will miss all of my friends, especially those editors on the desk of the Washington

bureau, who very rarely get the credit they deserve for wading through my many images to put me on the front pages of newspapers and web pages around the world. It has always been a team effort in Washington.

Thanks to all of you for making me look good.

Regards,

RON EDMONDS,
Senior White House Photographer,
Associated Press.

COMMENDING BOVE'S RESTAURANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the Bove family of Burlington, VT, on receiving a prestigious honor from the National Association of Specialty Food Trades. In particular, I congratulate Mark Bove, President of Bove's, and his brother Rick, on receiving the Gold Sofi Award in the Outstanding Pasta, Rice and Grain category.

Bove's Restaurant opened on Pearl Street in Burlington in 1941 and has been a local favorite for generations. Marcelle and I enjoyed many of Bove's Italian specialties while we were dating. I was a student at Saint Michael's College, and Marcelle at the Jeanne Mance School of Nursing. To this day, Bove's continues to be a favorite among college students, and many return to the restaurant as alumni during their reunion weekends.

Much to our delight, Mark Bove began bottling his family's outstanding sauces for sale in grocery stores and now also sells Bove's specialties, including meatballs and lasagna, at retail sites around our country. When I come home from a long day in the Senate, I am delighted that Marcelle and I can still enjoy a dinner from Bove's, just as we did as students years ago. We have also enjoyed sharing their great dishes with other Senators and their staff at the annual Taste of Vermont in Washington.

Once again, I congratulate the Bove family for this high honor. I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of a July 6 article from the Burlington Free Press printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 6, 2009]

BUSINESS MONDAY: BOVE'S WINS GOLD FOR LASAGNA

Bove's famous frozen lasagna has been awarded the National Association of Specialty Food Trades' prestigious Gold Sofi Award in the Outstanding Pasta, Rice and Grain Category.

The all-natural, hand crafted lasagna is a frozen version of the popular classic served at Bove's cafe on Pearl Street in Burlington.

A year ago Mark Bove, president and sauceboy, introduced the world to his family's recipe on The Food Network's "Throwdown with Bobby Flay," soon followed by an appearance on "The Today Show," where Bove prepared his lasagna for Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Gifford. The national exposure sent demand soaring.

"I was making small versions of the lasagna at the restaurant and shipping them

around the country," Bove said in a statement. "We just couldn't keep up with demand this way, which led me to produce the lasagna for retail."

COMMENDING SENATOR NORM COLEMAN

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and colleague an extraordinary public servant and tireless advocate for the people of his cherished State of Minnesota, Senator Norm Coleman. I want to express my most sincere gratitude for his longtime friendship and my enormous admiration for him and his impressive litany of accomplishments. And although I am saddened by his departure from this esteemed Chamber, I know with utmost certainty that Senator Coleman's exceptional contributions to Minnesotans and the American people will continue well into the future.

I am proud to say that Senator Coleman and I served together over his 6 remarkable years in the Senate, and I would like especially to express my immense gratitude for his pivotal role on the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship over that span of time, where I served first as chair and now as ranking member. Senator Coleman was always a reasoned and passionate voice on the committee, and his indelible impact is indisputable. Whether it was our work together on The Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005, The Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2006, or a number of other measures and issues, Senator Coleman, true to the founding tradition of the U.S. Senate, continually addressed the concerns of his constituents, while at the same time making the best decisions for this Nation.

And I especially well recall our joining forces over the winter of 2006 when natural gas and home heating oil prices had skyrocketed in Maine, Minnesota, and numerous other cold weather States, turning a crucial problem of years past into an urgent crisis that required immediate congressional attention. With the level of funding allocated in the budget, states could not maintain the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, an initiative I have long championed which provides vital funding to our country's low-income families and elderly.

Recognizing both the plight of Minnesotans and all affected Americans from the beginning of this crisis, Senator Coleman and I, among others, battled to shed light on this emergency early by calling for the passage of a bill to provide additional LIHEAP funding to states. Senator Coleman was an instrumental catalyst in our successful effort to pass this bill to the benefit of countless Minnesotans, Mainers, and other untold Americans across this land. And for that, I will be forever grateful!